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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 30 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic concerning the statements made on 24 March 2015 by the Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom, in which he announced an unwarranted increase in the already excessive British military expenditure in the Malvinas Islands (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) María Cristina **Perceval**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made on 24 March 2015 by the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Defence, Mr. Michael Fallon, before the British Parliament. In his address, the Secretary of State announced an unwarranted increase in the already excessive military expenditure in the Malvinas Islands. By invoking an alleged and implausible Argentine "threat", the United Kingdom seeks to justify a military presence typical of a colonial Power.

As I have stated on numerous occasions, the region as a whole shares my country's concern over the British militarization of the South Atlantic, which has been denounced by various international forums because it creates an unnecessary and unjustified tension in the South Atlantic, a nuclear-weapon-free zone characterized by its commitment to peace.

Faced with the obligation that is equally binding on both sides to find a solution to the dispute, the United Kingdom has confirmed with this announcement that it is determined to engage in an arms build-up and warmongering. In stark contrast, Argentina maintains that only dialogue and negotiation in accordance with international law must prevail to settle international disputes and put an end to this anachronistic colonial situation that has lasted for more than 182 years.

The United Kingdom is aware that successive Governments in democratic Argentina have enshrined as State policy the mandate established in the Argentine Constitution to find a solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in accordance with the principles of international law.

In the light of your ongoing mission of good offices, which was mandated by the General Assembly and its Special Committee on decolonization, I ask you to urge the United Kingdom to sit at the negotiating table, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), adopted 50 years ago and reiterated in more than 40 General Assembly resolutions, and as recommended by the Special Committee. That same obligation has also been reaffirmed by many international and regional agencies and forums, including the Organization of American States, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations, the Southern Common Market, the Group of 77 and China, the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Africa-South America Summit, the South American and Arab Countries Summit and the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

Allow me to reiterate once again the unwavering and steadfast willingness of the Argentine Republic to resume the negotiations on sovereignty with the United Kingdom, in accordance with the provisions adopted by the United Nations.

Accordingly, I should be grateful if the present note could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Héctor **Timerman**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship